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Sent: Monday, June 25, 2007 10:06 AM

To: COT Constitutional CIO Security Contacts; COT Cabinet CIO Security Contacts; COT Commonwealth Technology Council

Cc: COT Exchange Administrators; COT Security Alert Contacts; COT Security Contact COT-Support; COT Security Contact Pass; COT Security Contact Self-Support; COT Technical Contacts; SecurityContacts Group

Subject: COT Security Alert - Spam and Phishing Emails

COT Security Alert

An issue occurred with the spam filtering system over the weekend allowing a higher than normal amount of spam and phishing email to reach Outlook Inboxes. This issue has been resolved, but users should take care in handling the spam they have received. Please delete these spam emails without opening them, including notices that appear to be from banks or other financial institutions. Never reply to these kinds of emails in any way or click on any links they may contain. Any action on your part in response to these emails, other than deletion, can be used by the sender for their own agenda. Users are also advised to never to use the Reading Pane in Outlook as emails that appear in the reading pane are essentially opened.

Due to evasive measures taken by those that send these emails, no spam filter can perfectly filter all of them from getting to Inboxes even when the filter is working properly. The actions prescribed in this alert should be practiced at all times.

More information concerning phishing and spam may be found at <http://onguardonline.gov/index.html>.

NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.

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